

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of forming an ink-receptive card substrate comprising steps of:

- a) providing an ink-receptive material having a backing layer and an ink-receptive coating on a surface of the backing layer;
- b) providing a card member; and
- c) laminating the ink-receptive material to a surface of the card member, wherein the ink-receptive coating is bonded to the surface of the card member.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the laminating step c) includes applying heat and pressure to the ink-receptive material and the card member.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the ink-receptive material overhangs edges of the card member during the laminating step c).

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the ink-receptive material is in the form of an individual ink-receptive sheet.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the sheet completely covers the surface of the card substrate during the laminating step c).

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the ink-receptive material is in the form of an ink-receptive film.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the ink-receptive film is supported on a supply roll.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the card member is sized in accordance with standardized identification card substrates.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the card member is in the form of a sheet of card substrate material.

10. The method of claim 1 including e) cutting an individual card substrate from the sheet of card substrate material.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the card member includes an embedded chip having exposed contacts.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the ink-receptive coating does not bond to the exposed contacts during the laminating step c).

13. A method of forming an identification card comprising:

- a) forming a card substrate in accordance with the method of claim 1; and
- b) printing an image on the ink-receptive coating.

14. The method of claim 1 including removing the backing layer from the ink-receptive coating.

15. A method of forming an identification card comprising steps of:

- a) providing an ink-receptive material that includes a backing layer and an ink-receptive coating on a surface of the backing layer;
- b) providing a card member;
- c) printing an image to a surface of the ink-receptive coating; and
- d) laminating the ink-receptive material to a surface of a card member such that the ink-receptive coating is bonded to the surface of the card member.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the printing step c) is performed prior to the laminating step d).

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the image is a reverse image.

18. The method of claim 15 including removing the backing layer from the ink-receptive coating.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the printing step c) is performed following the removing step.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the laminating step d) includes applying heat and pressure to the ink-receptive material and the card member.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein the ink-receptive material overhangs edges of the card member during the laminating step d).

22. The method of claim 15, wherein the ink-receptive material is in the form of an individual ink-receptive sheet.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the ink-receptive sheet completely covers the surface of the card substrate during the laminating step d).

24. The method of claim 15, wherein the ink-receptive material is in the form of an ink-receptive film.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the ink-receptive film is supported on a supply roll.

26. The method of claim 15, wherein the card member is sized in accordance with standardized identification card substrates.

27. The method of claim 15, wherein the card member is in the form of a sheet of card substrate material.

28. The method of claim 27 including cutting an identification card substrate from the sheet of card substrate material following the laminating step d).

29. The method of claim 15, wherein the card member includes an embedded chip having exposed contacts.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the ink-receptive coating does not bond to the exposed contacts during the laminating step d).

31. A device for forming a card substrate comprising:

a supply of ink-receptive material having a backing layer and an ink-receptive coating on the surface of the backing layer; and

a laminating section configured to laminate the ink-receptive material to a surface of a card member, wherein the ink-receptive coating is bonded to the surface of the card member.

32. The device of claim 31, wherein the laminating section includes a heated roller.

33. The device of claim 31, wherein the supply of ink-receptive material includes at least one ink-receptive sheet.

34. The device of claim 33 including a sheet feed mechanism configured to transport individual ink-receptive sheets from the supply of ink-receptive material to the laminating section.

35. The device of claim 31, wherein the supply of ink-receptive material includes an ink-receptive film contained on a supply roll.

36. The device of claim 35, wherein the laminating section includes a heated roller and the ink-receptive film is fed between the heated roller and the card member.

37. The device of claim 31, including a card supply containing a plurality of card members and a card feed mechanism configured to transport individual card members to the laminating section.

38. The device of claim 31, wherein the card member is sized in accordance with an identification card substrate.

39. The device of claim 31, wherein the card member is a sheet of identification card substrate material.

40. The device of claim 31 including a printhead configured to receive the ink-receptive material and print an image on the ink-receptive coating.

41. The device of claim 40, wherein the printhead is an ink jet printhead.

42. The device of claim 31 including a separator configured to remove the backing layer of the ink-receptive material from the ink-receptive coating and the card member.

43. The device of claim 42, wherein the separator includes at least one peeling wedge.

44. The device of claim 42, wherein the separator includes a peeling roller that directs the ink-receptive material away from the ink-receptive coating bonded to the card member at an acute angle relative to the card member.

45. The device of claim 44, wherein an axis of rotation of the peeling roller is at an acute angle relative to a direction in which the card member travels.